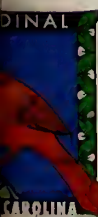


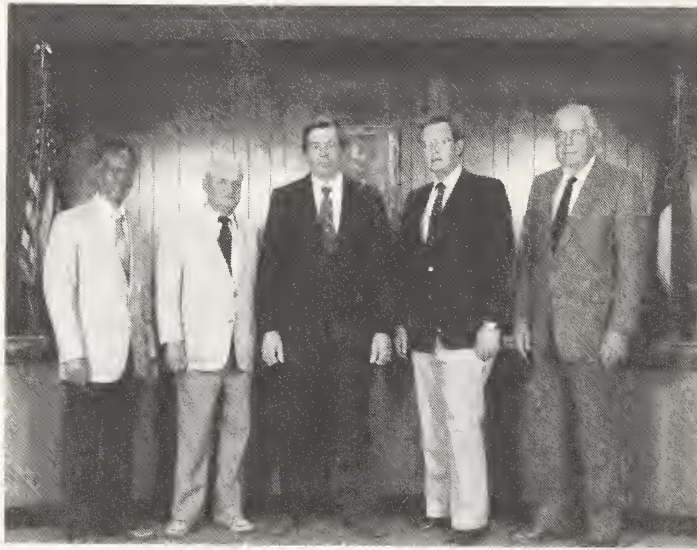


HISTORICAL SKETCHES AND PHOTOGRAPHS



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Rockingham County Bicentennial Commission
1985



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The Rockingham County Commissioners during the Bicentennial year of 1985. Left to right; Clarence E. Tucker, Troy C. Hodges, Chairman Howell O. Gentry, Jr., Vice-Chairman Robert H. Hunt, Garland S. Edwards.



The Rockingham County Courthouse built in 1907 with additions in the 1930's, 1960's and 1970's.

Editor's Word

It is appropriate in the Rockingham County Bicentennial year that the Bicentennial Commission publish some lasting record of the county's rich heritage. When a number of unpublished photographs were located, the Bicentennial Publication and Research Committee submitted a proposal to the Bicentennial Commission for funds to publish a booklet containing the photographs. The Commission funded the project and this publication is the result. The Publication and Research Committee wishes to thank the people who have loaned their old photographs for inclusion in the booklet.

We hope that in the coming years this collection of photographs will contribute to the awareness of our heritage and to that end we offer it as a permanent commemoration of the Rockingham County Bicentennial year.

April, 1985

Robert W. Carter, Jr., Editor

Style-Kraft Printing, Eden, North Carolina

HISTORICAL SKETCHES and PHOTOGRAPHS OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



Peter E. Wilson's farm on the Wentworth-Reidsville Macadam Road ca. 1915.

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MAYODAN BRANCH

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
OUTREACH
MADISON
MAYODAN
EDEN
REIDSVILLE
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Formation of Rockingham County LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA — 1785

An Act for the Dividing the County of Guilford

Whereas the extent of the county of Guilford and different water-courses in the same, render it inconvenient and troublesome to many of the inhabitants thereof, to attend the courts and general elections, and other public meetings appointed therein:

I. Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same. That from and after the passing of this Act, the said county of Guilford be divided by an east and west line, beginning at Haw River Bridge, near James Martins; and that all that part of the late county of Guilford, which lies to the south of said line, shall continue and remain a distinct county by the name of Guilford; and all that other part of the said county of Guilford, which lies north of the said dividing line, shall thenceforth be erected into a new and distinct county by the name of Rockingham.

II. And for due administration of justice: Be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a court for the said county of Rockingham shall be held constantly by the justices thereof on the fourth Mondays of February, May, August and November; and the justices for the said county of Rockingham are hereby authorized and empowered to hold the first court in the same at the house of Adam Tate; all subsequent courts for said county on the days above appointed for holding courts therein, at any place to which the said justices shall from court to court adjourn themselves, until a court house shall be built for said county of Rockingham, and then all causes, matters and things depending in said court, and all manner of process returnable to the same shall be adjourned to such court house; and all courts held in and for said county of Rockingham, shall be held by commission to the justices, in the same manner and under the same rules and restrictions, and shall have and exercise the same power and jurisdiction as are or shall be prescribed for other courts held for the several counties in this State.

III. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to debar the late sheriff and collectors of the said county of Guilford as the same stood undivided, to make distress for any levies, fees or other dues now actually due and owing from the inhabitants of the said county as it formerly stood undivided, in the same manner as by law the said sheriff or collectors could or might have done, if the said county had remained undivided; and the said levies, fees and other dues shall be collected and accounted for in the same manner as if this Act had never been made, any thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

IV. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That after the passing of this Act the said county of Rockingham, shall be continued and remain part of the district of the superior court of law and equity, usually held for the district of Salisbury; and the said county treasurer of the said county of Rockingham, shall from time to time account for and pay to the public treasurer of this State for the time being, all public levies by him collected, or wherewith he shall stand chargeable, in the same manner and under the like pains and penalties as other county treasurers.

V. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That William Dent, John Hamilton, Charles Bruice, Samuel Henderson, Joshua Smith and Abraham Philips, be appointed commissioners; and they are hereby empowered and required to run the said dividing line between the counties of Guilford and Rockingham agreeable to the directions of this Act; which said line when run by the commissioners or a majority of them, shall be by them entered on record in the court of each of the said counties, and shall thereafter be deemed and taken to be the dividing line between the said counties of Guilford and Rockingham.

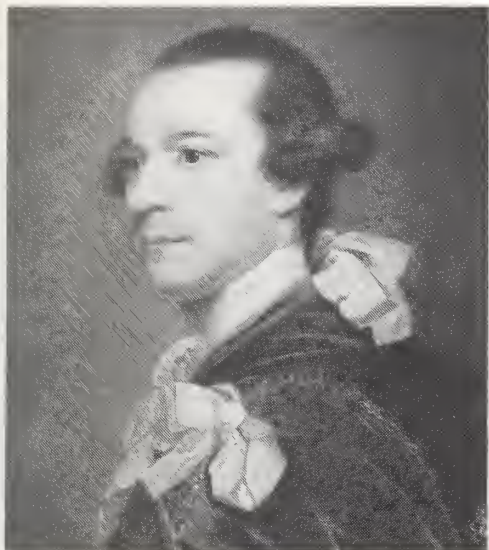
VI. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That James Hunter, John Dabney, Thomas Henderson, John May and Hugh Challis, Esquires, the survivor or survivors of them, be and they are hereby empowered and directed to agree and contract with workmen for erecting and building a court house, prison and stocks, for use of said county of Rockingham, at such place as they, or a majority of them or their survivors, shall agree upon. And for reimbursing the said commissioners the money they shall expend in erecting the said buildings, and running the dividing line between the said counties.

VII. Be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a tax of two shillings on each poll, and a tax of eight pence on every hundred acres of land, shall be and is hereby assessed on the taxable property in the said county of Rockingham, for two years to commence from the passing of this Act; and that all persons who shall refuse or neglect to pay said tax, at the time limited for payment of public taxes, shall be liable to the same penalties and distress as for non-payment of public taxes; and the collectors of the said county are hereby required and directed to account for and pay the monies by them so collected, to the commissioners aforesaid, after deducting two and a half percent, for the trouble in collecting the same; and in case of failure or neglect in any of the said collectors, such collector so failing or neglecting shall be liable to the same penalties and recoveries as by law may be had against collectors of public taxes in like cases.

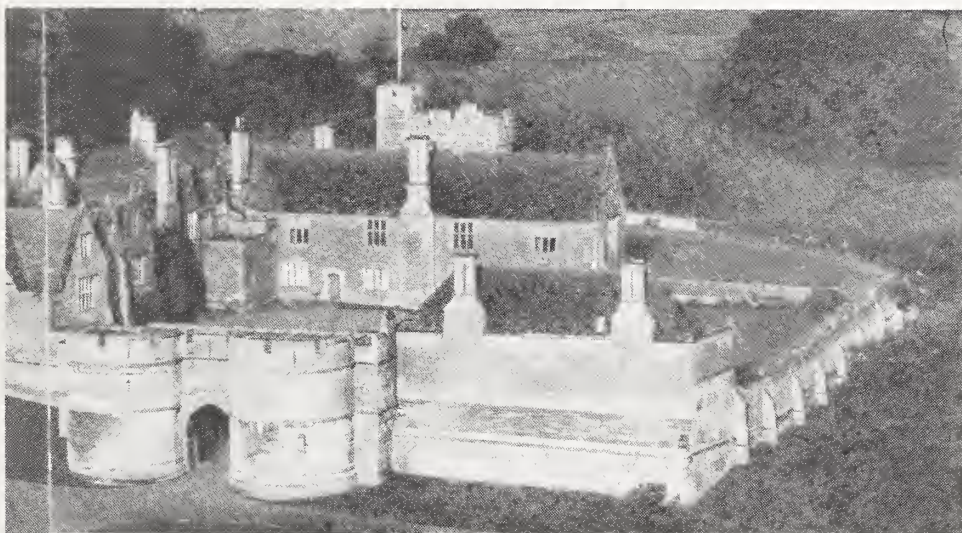
VIII. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all manner of suits, causes and pleas, whether civil or criminal, now commenced and depending in the county of Guilford, shall continue and may be prosecuted to a final end and determination, any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

IX. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the court of the said county of Rockingham, shall appoint three jurors to attend at every superior court that shall be held for the said district. (Passed December 29, 1785.)

— State Records of North Carolina
Vol. 24 — Laws 1777-1788



Charles Watson-Wentworth Second Marquess of Rockingham (1730-1782) for whom Rockingham County was named.



Rockingham Castle near Market Harborough, Leicestershire, England. The castle has been the home of the Watson family for over 400 years. Thence came the name of Rockingham County.

Formation of Rockingham County

On December 29, 1785, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted legislation that created Rockingham County from the northern half of Guilford County. The new county was named for Charles Watson-Wentworth, second Marquess of Rockingham (1730-1782) who was a leading Whig and prime minister of Britain from 1765 to 1766 and again in 1782. His popularity in America was assured when he secured repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766 and led the ministry that initiated negotiation to end the Revolutionary War. He was the leading Parliamentary opponent of both the government's American policy and war from 1768 to 1781.

The first session of Rockingham County's quarterly court convened in February, 1786 at the plantation of Adam Tate near Eagle Falls on the south side of the Dan River. On January 1, 1787, the General Assembly created a new commission to establish the county seat "on the lands of Charles Mitchell on the east side of Big Rock House creek . . ." By 1788 the Rockingham County Courthouse had been completed and in 1798 the General Assembly enacted a law forming the town of Wentworth at the site of the courthouse.

*From Rockingham County:
A Brief History,
by Lindley S. Butler*

Rockingham County Courthouses and Jails



Rockingham County Courthouse which burned in 1906. Middle building was the B. J. Law Home and far right was the law office of Ira Humphreys.



East view of present Rockingham County Courthouse, under construction, 1907.

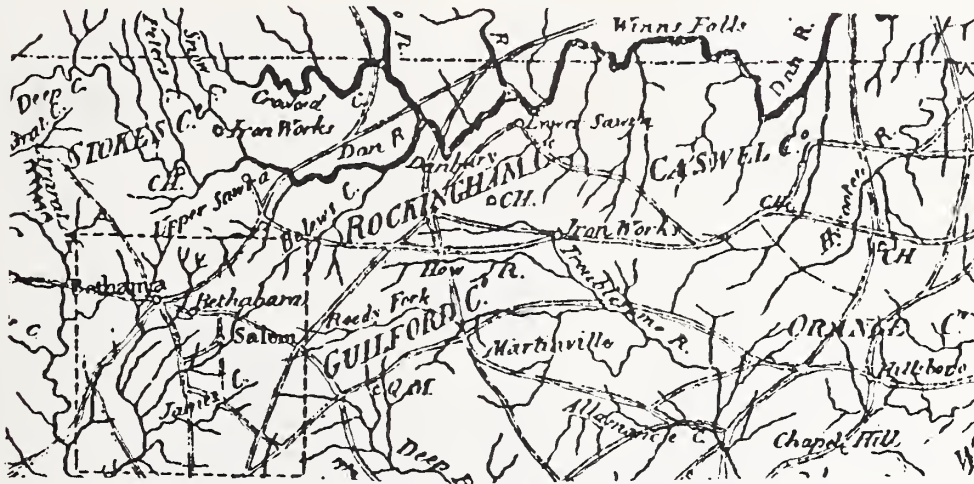


Rockingham County Jail built in 1858, burned in 1890 and rebuilt within the original walls. Torn down in 1910.

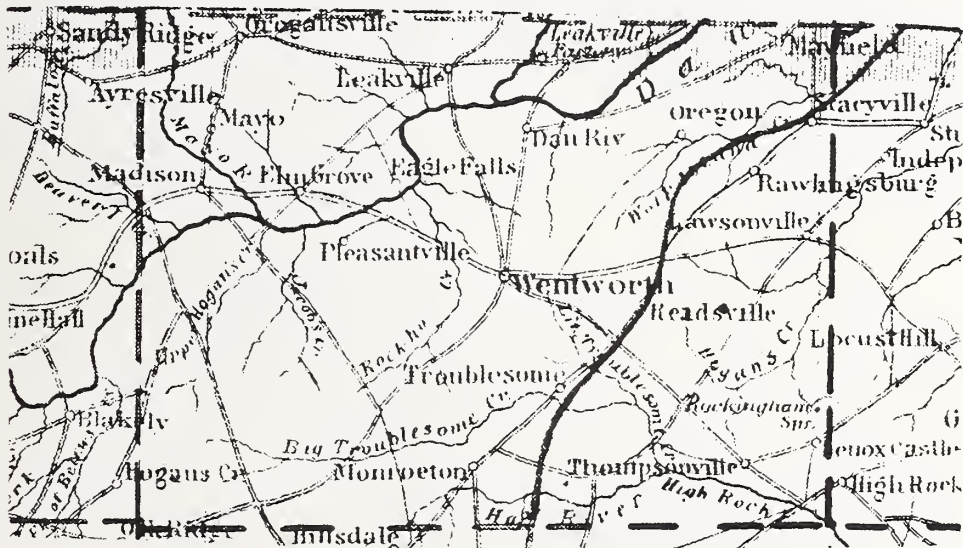


Rockingham County Jail built in 1910 and used until 1970's.

Nineteenth Century Development in Maps.



Rockingham County ca. 1800.



Rockingham County ca. 1865.



Rockingham County ca. 1900.

Our Religious Heritage



Speedwell Presbyterian Church organized in 1759. Hazel B. Carter, Margaret Hutcherson and Louise Baker are shown at Speedwell in the 1930's. The second building erected in 1844 is in the background.

Rockingham County has a large number of churches representing numerous denominations. During the early history of the county there were only three denominations: the Presbyterians, the Baptists and the Methodists.

Settlers in the Haw River valley laid foundations for Presbyterian churches at Speedwell in 1759 and at Haw River in 1762. Speedwell continues as an active church, but Haw River became extinct.

In 1832 the congregation which became Spring Garden Church in 1837 was organized. From this church both the Madison (1848) and Leaksville congregations developed. A Presbyterian church was organized at Wentworth in 1859. While never as large in number as the Baptists or Methodists, the denomination has remained influential in the county.

People of Baptist background from Virginia settled along Matrimony, Wolf Island and Lick Fork Creeks where they formed Baptist churches in 1776, 1777 and 1786 respectively. Sardis Church in Western Rockingham was formed in 1801, also by a group of Virginia settlers.

After a division over the missionary movement in the 1830's, all of the earliest churches became Primitive Baptist and remain active congregations today. The Beulah Missionary Baptist Association was formed in 1834, and in 1839 it organized a church at Leaksville. In the 1840's it formed churches at Madison and Hogan's Creek (now First Baptist of Reidsville). From these beginnings a large number of Baptist churches developed and the denomination continues to be the largest in the county.

Methodism developed in eastern Rockingham County late in the 18th century along the route of travel of Bishop Francis Asbury. Some of the settlers along Little Troublesome Creek and on the headwaters of Wolf Island Creek were from the Maryland/Delaware area and had Methodist roots. They formed Lowe's in 1796, Salem in 1799 and Smith's in 1800 (in present day Reidsville, extinct by 1834).

During the period 1800-1810 a number of settlers from Virginia purchased land on Town Creek and in adjoining areas. This group was active in the formation of Mt. Carmel by 1808 or earlier. Mt. Carmel was the present church of Bethlehem which was formed in 1835.

Other early Methodist congregations were: Wentworth, 1836; Leaksville, 1837; Madison, 1843; Grogansville, 1858 (became Price); and Reidsville, 1872. Several early Methodist Protestant churches include: Fair Grove; 1830, Mizpah, 1850, and Midway, 1866. In 1939 the two denominations merged into the United Methodist Church which remains a strong denomination in the county.

Other churches formed prior to the Civil War included the Episcopal Church in Leaksville, 1844 and Mt. Bethel Christian Church (now United Church of Christ) formed in 1857.

Robert W. Carter, Jr.



Matrimony Primitive Baptist Church formed in 1776. Present building dates from before the Civil War. Located east of Stoneville.



Lowe's Methodist Church organized in 1796. Shown above is the second building erected in 1883 and used until 1953. Located three miles southeast of Reidsville.

Our Religious Heritage



The present Mt. Carmel Methodist Church, near Oregon Hill, was built in 1955. The earlier 1880's building is shown in the background.



The Wentworth Presbyterian Church erected in 1860. Photo made ca. 1918.



Stoneville Christian Church in the early 1900's.

Our Religious Heritage



Mizpah Methodist Protestant Church built about 1850. Replaced with a new church building in 1925. The church is located four miles south of Reidsville.

The old Presbyterian Church in Leaksville. This church was later made into apartments after the Presbyterians sold the building.



First Baptist Church (Black) at the corner of South Scales and Williams Streets in Reidsville. In use from 1918 until 1975 when a new church was erected at a new location.

Our Industrial Heritage



One of the Ironworks furnaces on Troublesome Creek as drawn by Henry Denny ca. 1900. This furnace, located below the mill site was probably erected ca. 1789.

Barnett Grist Mill on the Spray Canal constructed in the 1830's to replace an 1813 structure. Governor John M. Morehead became the owner of this mill in 1836. Torn down in the early 1900's.



The earliest settlers in the area that is now Rockingham County brought with them the skills of cottage industries. The women could spin and weave; the men made whiskey, shoes and tanned hides. No doubt these skills produced a surplus to be bartered for things they were unable to produce themselves. The second industries were the gristmills and sawmills. Speedwell Furnace, one of the first ironworks in North Carolina, operated briefly in the county in 1770 and in the late 1780's. Later cotton gins processed cotton largely for home consumption. There were also blacksmiths and makers of rifles. In 1810 Captain Farrington produced rifles which were said to be equal to any of European make.

One of the first industries in the county based on investment and marketing skills was the Leaksville Cotton Factory built by Gov. John Motley Morehead in 1839. By 1840 tobacco was the leading industry in the county. This industry was centered in Madison, however there were factories throughout the county. These early tobacco factories were usually located on the plantations where tobacco was grown. They were relatively small, producing twist and plug chewing tobacco which was peddled from covered wagons in the deep South. According to the 1840 census, in addition to the Morehead Mill and the tobacco factories, there were 36 gristmills, 25 sawmills, 13 flour mills, 5 tanneries, 2 oil mills and a furniture factory.

During the Civil War the Confederate Government completed the railroad between Danville, Virginia and Greensboro, North Carolina, to expedite the movement of soldiers and supplies to the armies in Virginia. The new railroad passed through the village of Reidsville. As a consequence Reidsville became the center of tobacco manufacturing in the county while Spray became the center of textile manufacturing. Madison and Stoneville were largely market towns with some small tobacco manufacturing factories. This trend continued until the turn of the century when Mayodan and Avalon were established as cotton mill villages in the western part of the county on the Mayo River. By 1893 Rockingham County had become one of the more industrialized counties in the state.

Hassel B. Gann

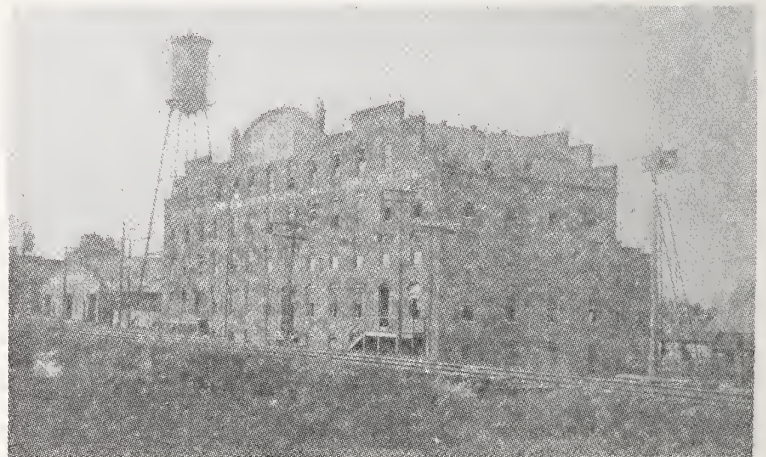


Old pre-civil war tobacco factory where plug chewing tobacco was manufactured. This building, near Mayodan, still stands.

Our Industrial Heritage



Leaksville Cotton Mill erected in 1839 by Gov. John Motley Morehead.



F. R. Penn Tobacco Company in Reidsville. Photo made in 1908.



Edna Cotton Mill in Reidsville. Built in 1889, the building is still in use as Cone Mills, Edna Plant. Photo taken in 1909.

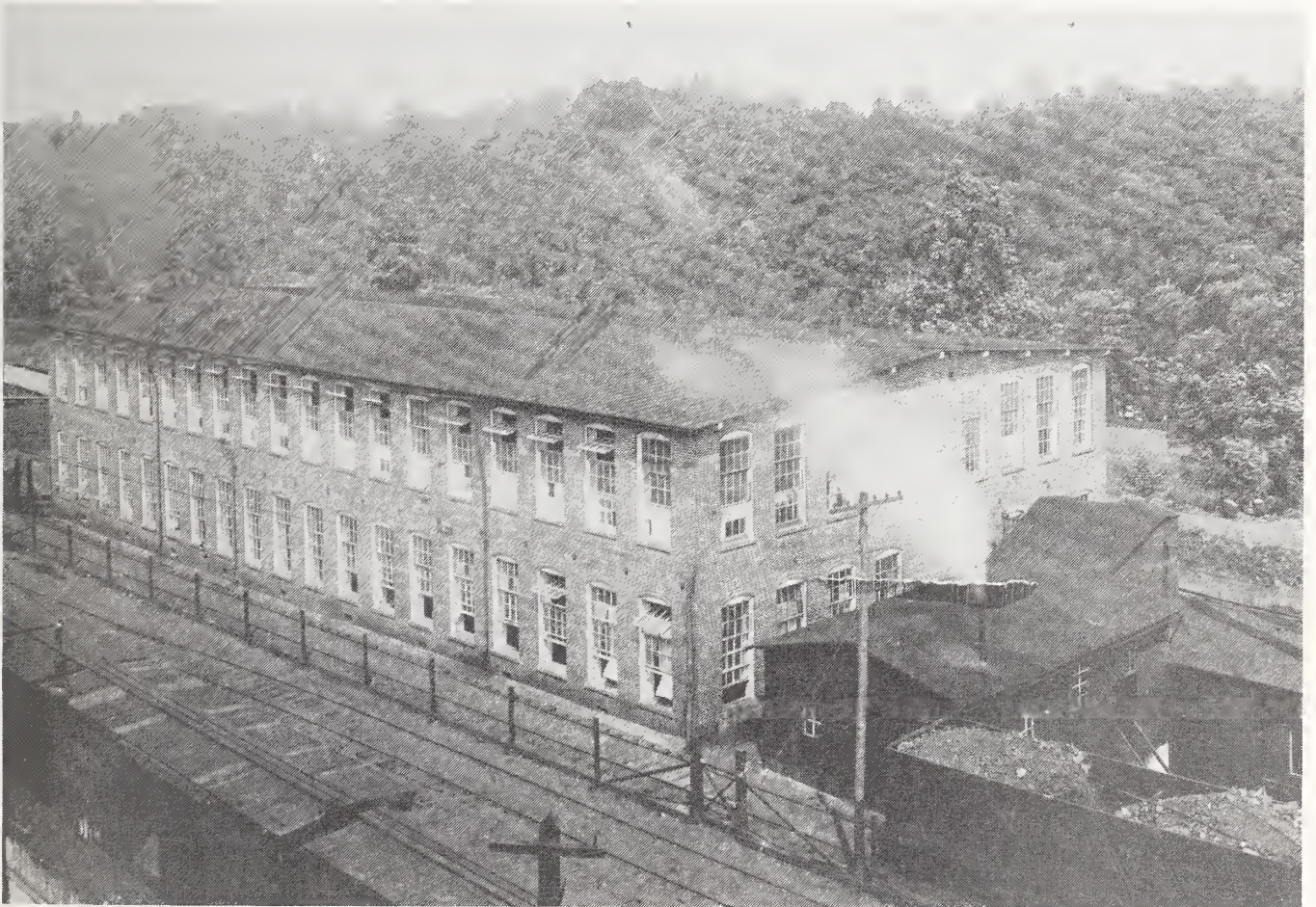
Our Industrial Heritage



Robert Harris & Bros. Tobacco Factory in Reidsville. The building erected in 1914, is now part of Chase Bag Company.

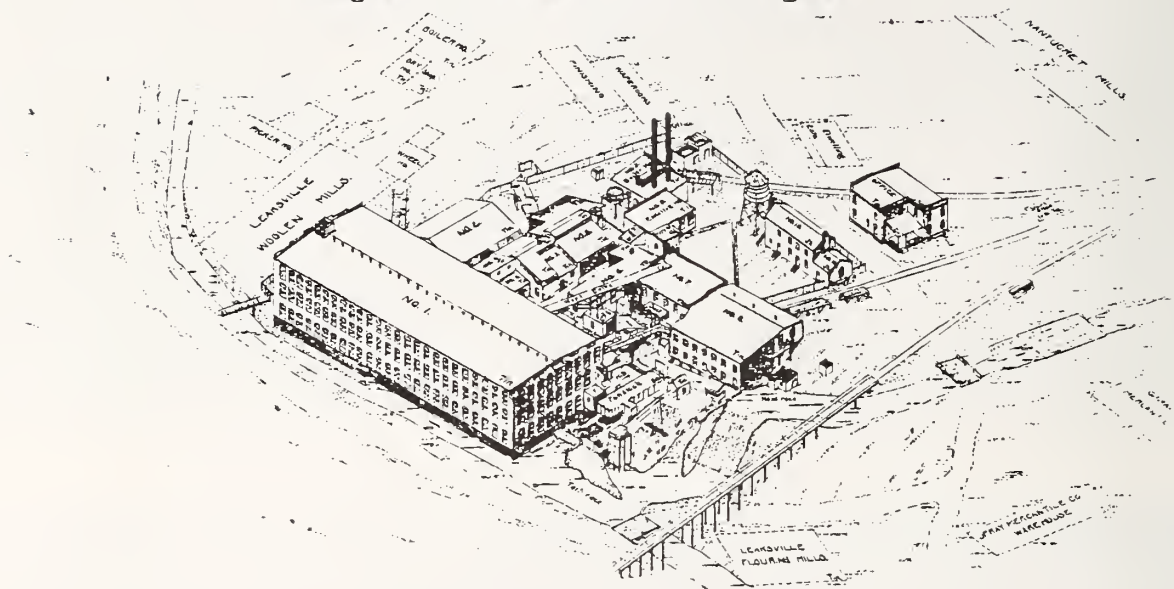


Avalon Mill fire on June 15, 1911 which resulted in the removal of the town of Avalon to nearby Mayodan. The site of Avalon is now pasture land.



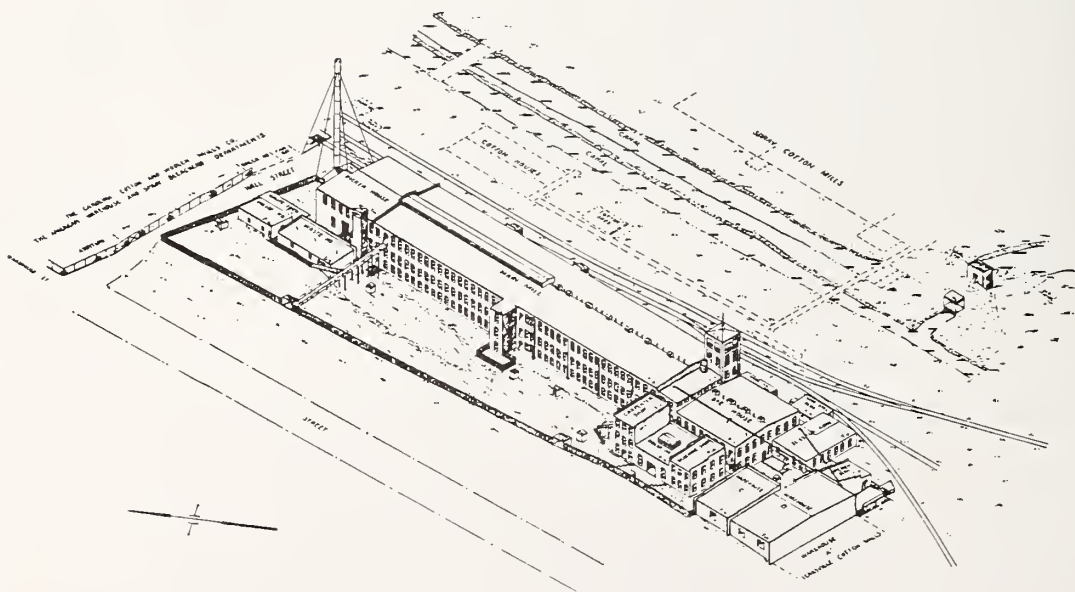
View of the Lily Mill in Spray. Photo made in 1912.

Our Industrial Heritage



THE
CAROLINA COTTON & WOOLEN MILLS CO.,
NANTUCKET MILLS DEPT.,
SPRAY, N. C.

Scale 1 inch=50 feet. Surveyed by E. H. HARRIS. Drawn by John P. Smith.



Our Educational and Cultural Heritage



Williamsburg Public School Number Two ca. 1900.

By the early part of the nineteenth century, a number of academies were operating in Rockingham County. The first academies opened in 1820 in Leaksville and Madison. The Doll Academy was opened in Madison about 1850. Other early schools in the county included Professor Nat Smith's school; a grammar school at Samuel Dalton's; Mrs. Claiborne Watkin's Female Academy; a school on the Joshua Wall estate in Dan Valley; the Margarita Seminary near Belews Creek; and the private Dalton School. A later academy widely known was Sharp Institute in the Intelligence Community.

Wentworth was the site of an academy established in 1844 by Numa Fletcher Reid and Franklin Harris. Reidsville too had a number of academies in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Among them were the F. P. Hobgood Academy which opened in 1870; the school taught by Mrs. Pattie Wootton on Maple Avenue; the George R. McNeill School; and the larger Reidsville Seminary, founded in 1874 by Miss Emma Scales.

A later but important school was the Leaksville Spray Institute. It opened in 1905 under the auspices of local Baptists.

Public Schools

In 1839 a bill stating that white boys and girls be taught the rudiments of an English education was passed by the North Carolina Legislature. One of the first public schools in the state opened in Rockingham County on January 20, 1840. Teachers were often poorly educated and pay was usually low. Most buildings were inadequate.

Private schools continued into the early twentieth century but eventually four public school systems developed. They were Leaksville, Madison, Reidsville and Rockingham County. As the county grew, the small schools were consolidated and the one-room school disappeared.

Rockingham Community College

Taking advantage of a bill passed by the General Assembly, local citizens quickly generated interest that led Rockingham County to be the first to request the establishment of a community college. After this was accomplished, Dr. Gerald James accepted the post of President and began the task of building the campus. The college opened in the Fall of 1966.

Cultural Heritage

Early settlers in the county had few opportunities for cultural or social activities. Social events for many were limited to family gatherings or travelers passing through. At the taverns at Lenox Castle and High Rock men indulged in horse racing, cock fighting or card playing. Wright Tavern in Wentworth also provided refreshments, card playing and political discussions. Dances and fox hunts were activities enjoyed in the nineteenth century. Quilting bees, corn shuckings and religious activities were occasions for visiting with friends and neighbors.

Music was an important form of entertainment as many citizens played string instruments as well as the piano. Reidsville even had an opera house. Dances and large parties were held in various locations. Concerts and plays were often given by the local schools and academies.

Sports activities were also popular. Besides hunting, fishing and horse racing, tennis and croquet came to be enjoyed. Baseball, however, was the most popular team sport.

The Public Library

In 1930 Mrs. B. Frank Mebane of Spray announced that she would establish and support for one year a public library in memory of her husband. With this idea, a board of directors for the Leaksville library was formed and later, with the support of the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners, the Tri-Cities Board began in 1934 to plan for a Rockingham County Library System. Local support and interest also led to the establishment of libraries in Madison, Mayodan, Reidsville and Stoneville.

Robbin G. Dodson



Mizpah School ca. 1900. This log building was probably one of the original common schools constructed before the civil war.



Happy Home School students in the early 1900's.

Our Educational and Cultural Heritage



Wentworth Male Academy in the 1870's. James W. Reid, U.S. Congressman 1884-86, and school principal is standing on the far right.



Spray's Little Red School. Morgan Road ca. 1910. George DeShazo, back row, was principal. The second boy from the right in the second row is future governor Luther H. Hodges.



Sadler School group ca. 1922.

Our Educational and Cultural Heritage



Rockingham County Teacher's Institute held at Wentworth Courthouse, July, 1901. County Superintendent E. P. Ellington is on the far right.



Reidsville Seminary in 1908.



Goins School in 1950. This building northwest of Mayodan was one of the last one-teacher schools in the county.

A large group photograph of the 1905-1906 Yearbook staff and students. The group is posed in multiple rows outdoors, with some individuals standing and others sitting or kneeling on the ground. The group includes men, women, and children, all dressed in early 20th-century attire. The background shows a simple building structure.

A black and white photograph of a large group of men in military uniforms, likely a band or regiment, posing in front of a building. The men are arranged in several rows, wearing hats and carrying instruments like brass instruments and drums. A large drum with the text "REPUBLICAN" is visible in the foreground on the right.

16

Transportation



Travel by oxcart in Rockingham County in late 1800's.



Rockingham County men peddling plug tobacco in Rock Hill, S.C. in late 1800's.

With the arrival of white settlers in the area, several branches of the Great Wagon Road leading from the Northern Colonies entered the county. Two of the major roads through the area became the Salem-Petersburg Road and the Bruces Road (later the Flat Rock Road) which ran across the southern edge of the county intersecting the Dix's Ferry Road. As a network of roads were "laid out" many of the smaller streams were spanned by bridges. The larger streams, the Dan, the Mayo and the Smith were forded at shallow places. For short periods small ferries crossed the Dan at several locations. Later the river was spanned by covered bridges at Madison, Leaksville and at Settles Bridge.

During the 1820's-1850's the Roanoke Navigation Company successfully operated a fleet of bateaux on the Dan River. Although some river traffic continued the railroads ended river navigation by 1880's-1900.

By early 1830's two stagecoach lines traversed the county. One route had stops at Lenox Castle and High Rock. The other line had a stop at Reidsville on the route between Danville and Greensboro. In 1856 a stage line ran from Reidsville to Madison by way of Wentworth. At the same time a line also ran from Danville to Greensboro with a stop at Thompsonville. Late in 1863 a stage line ran from Greensboro to Madison.

During 1863-1864 the Confederate Government constructed the railroad between Danville and Greensboro by way of Reidsville. Later operated by the Richmond and Danville Railroad, the route became part of the Southern Railway in 1894. In 1883 the Danville, Mocksville and Southwestern Railroad was completed between Danville and Leaksville. Later a part of the Southern Railroad, the line retained the name Danville and Western for many years. From 1889 to the 1930's, a branch line of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad extended from Stokesdale to Madison. In 1892 the railroad that became the Norfolk and Western was completed through the Stoneville-Madison area.

With the arrival of the automobile age there were no improved roads in the county. The first improved highway was the macadam road constructed during 1907-1911 between Reidsville, Wentworth and Settles Bridge. In the early 1920's modern concrete highways were constructed between Reidsville, Wentworth, Leaksville and between Greensboro and Danville. Other highways were paved in the 1930's but it was in the late 1940's that many of the rural roads were paved. Since that time all major routes have been completed.

Early airports in the county were Tri-City (Draper), Hopkins Brothers (Reidsville), and Reidsville Municipal all of which later closed. Present airports are Mayo (Mayodan), Warf's (Reidsville) and the Rockingham County Airport at Shiloh opened in 1975.

Robert W. Carter, Jr.



Leaksville Covered Bridge over the Dan River constructed 1852, collapsed 1943.

Transportation

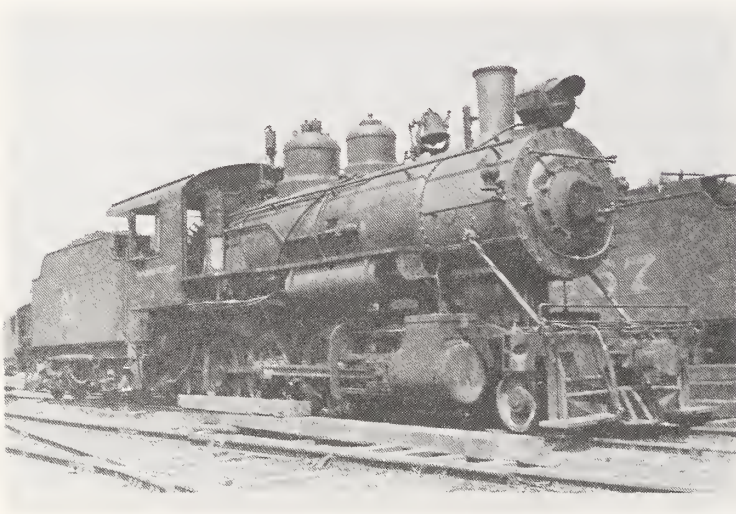
DAN RIVER, MADISON, N. C.



The Madison Covered Bridge in 1910. Built in 1887, torn down in the late 1930's.



Settle's Bridge over the Dan River near Wentworth, constructed in 1870, demolished in 1951.



Engine 21 on the Danville & Western Railroad ca. 1948.

Several engines of this type were used on the railroad from Danville to Leaksville.

Southern Railway freight train passing through Reidsville on May 31, 1948.



Transportation



Norfolk and Western Railroad Depot and train in Mayodan.



Claude Jones and his first automobile on Wyatt Street in Reidsville ca. 1907.



1915 Ford owned by R. Martin shown in Mayodan. L. to r. K. V. Reid, Will Walters and Frank Tulloch.



Car wreck in Mayodan during the 1920's.



First concrete road in the county shortly after its completion in 1923. County Courthouse in background.

Recreation



Horseback riding in Western Rockingham County. Left to right, in foreground, Myrtle Pratt Grogan, J. F. Smith. Helen Smith Johnson.



Sally Smith, Henrietta Reid (Fagg) and Rebekah Smith (Davis) in branch behind the Wentworth Courthouse ca. 1913.



Frank Elmer Grogan at old race track in Reidsville ca. 1905.

Recreation



Wentworth High School baseball team in 1918.



Spray baseball team in the 1920's.



Reidsville "Luckies" baseball team in the 1930's.

Recreation



Girls basketball team in Spray. Photo made in 1917.



Reidsville High School football team in 1932. "Hap" Perry, coach, is on far right.



Ruthie J. Carter, Thelma J. Rakestraw, and Hallie J. Wall about to "pole" a boat on the Mayo River in 1932.

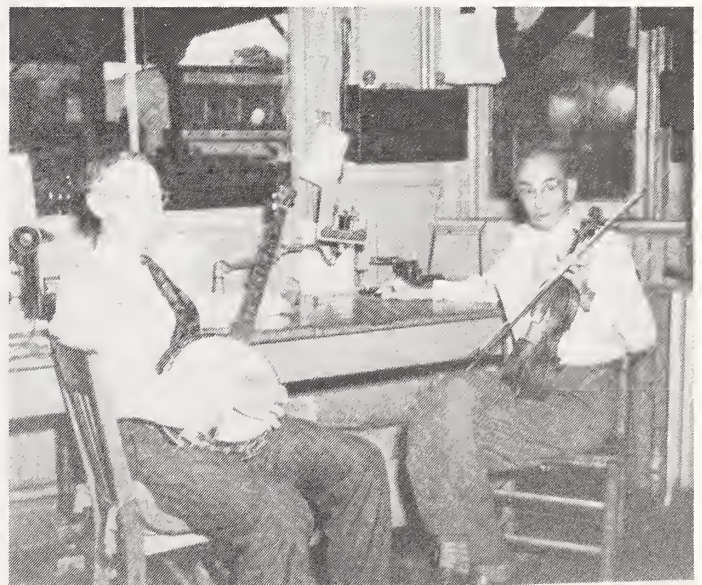
Recreation



Boat parade on Dan River above Mebane's Bridge, Easter Monday, 1950. Photo made at the "Boat Landing"; the center of the Rockingham Boat Club activities during the 1950's.



17 pound wild turkey killed in Rockingham County by Wray Carter in 1928.



Dave and Robert Crowder with their banjo and fiddle at the Reidsville train station in the 1940's.

Military



A member of the Irvin Family who lived in the Sandy Cross area and served as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War.

Prior to 1868 all counties were divided into military districts. Each district had at least one company of militia, commanded by a captain, and each county had one or more regiments, commanded by a colonel. In the Revolutionary War most companies saw periods of active duty. In addition to militia companies, Guilford County (of which Rockingham County was part) furnished enlisted men and officers to the Regular, or Continental, Regiments.

In the War of 1812 Rockingham County furnished one company for the defense of Norfolk, Virginia. This company saw little or no action, but suffered greatly from disease. In the Mexican War, 1848-1850, Rockingham furnished one company which also suffered great losses from disease.

Rockingham County furnished thirteen companies to the Confederate Army: three of the companies were in the 13th N. C. Regiment, one company in the 14th Regiment, one company in the 21st Regiment, six companies in the 45th Regiment, and one company in the 63rd Regiment (5th Cavalry). One company of Junior Reserves became Co. D, 72nd Regt. and a Senior Reserve Company was called to service in 1864 and served as part of the 77th Regiment. Many other men were conscripted for service and assigned to units from other areas.

The United States entered World War I in 1917. Company G of the 3rd N. C. Regiment from Rockingham County had just returned from service on the Mexican border and they became Co. G of the 120th Infantry, 30th (Old Hickory) Division. The 30th served under British command with the 27th Division and the 5th Australian; they broke the Hindenburg Line in heavy fighting in September and October, 1918, thus leading the way to the Armistice on November 11.

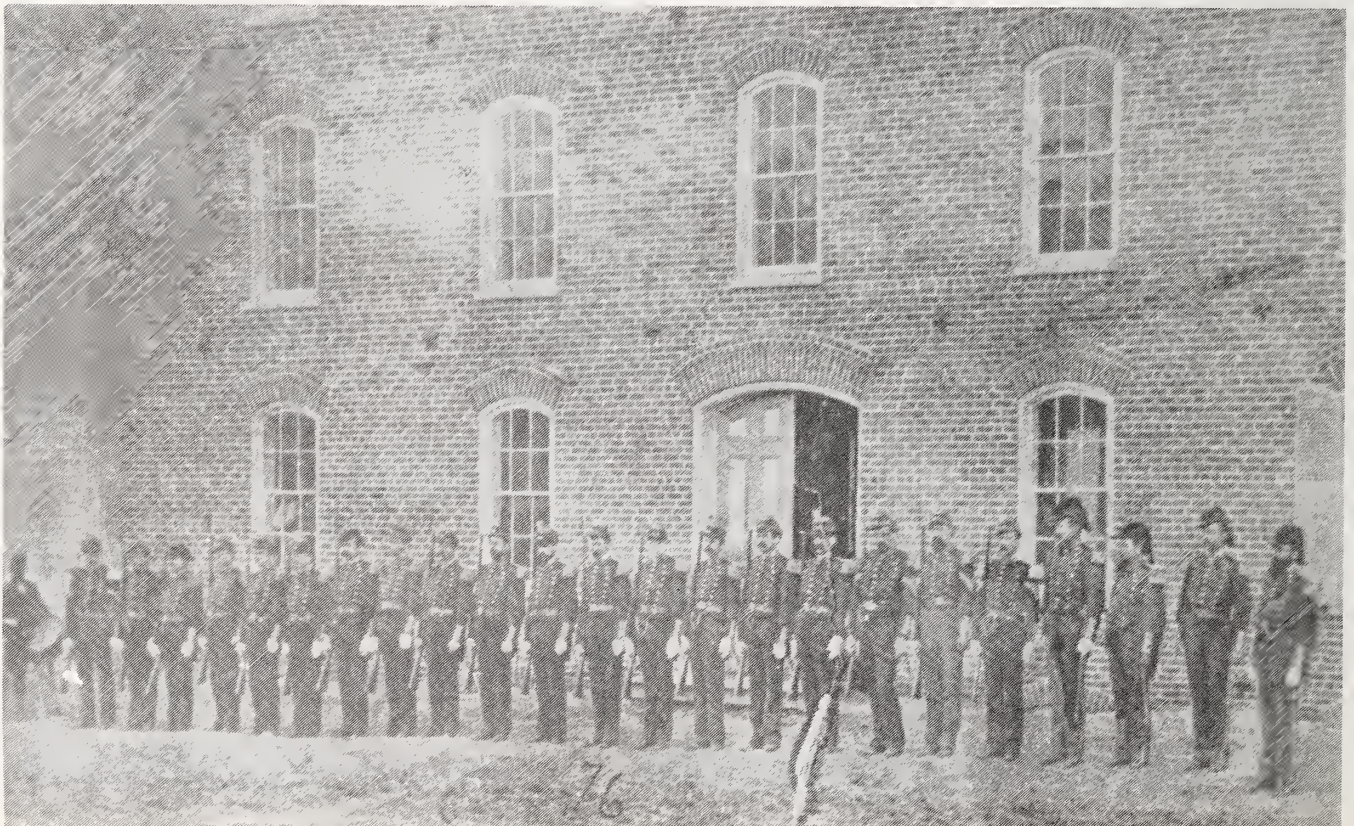
Many other men from Rockingham County were drafted or volunteered and served in other divisions or other branches of service in World War I.

In 1919 the 30th Division was disbanded at Camp Jackson, S. C. In the early twenties the division was reorganized as a National Guard Division, and three companies were located in Rockingham County.

For World War II the Old Hickory Division was called to active duty on September 16, 1940. The three Rockingham County companies of this division were: Hq. Co., 120th Infantry from Reidsville; Hq. Co., 60th Brigade from Leaksville; Co. G, 105th Medical Regiment from Madison. The 30th Division fought in all five major campaigns in Northern Europe. There were many casualties. During World War II many men and women from Rockingham County were drafted or volunteered to serve in branches of service all over the world.

After World War II, the National Guard was reorganized, with a company being located in Reidsville and one in Leaksville. At the present time (1985) the county has one company at the new Armory near Wentworth.

James R. Meador, LCol, AUS, Ret.

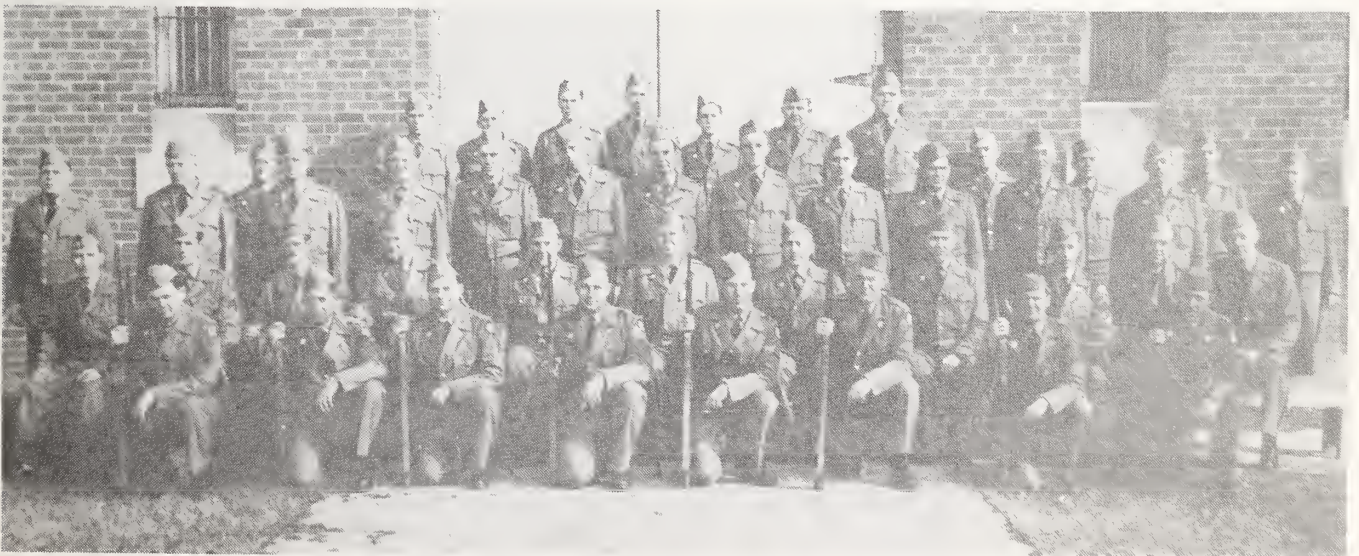


The Reidsville Light Infantry in 1883.

Military



Ceremony at the World Wars I & II Memorial in Leaksville. First erected at the National Guard Armory, the memorial was later moved to Bridge Street.



North Carolina Home Guard Company at the Reidsville Armory early in World War II.

Wentworth



Reid Hotel (Wright Tavern) ca. 1913. Left to right: Sue Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Numa Reid.

On January 1, 1786, the General Assembly appointed a Commission to select a permanent site for the county seat at or near the center of Rockingham County. By April, 1787, Charles Mitchell sold to Charles Galloway and Constant Perkins a two-hundred acre tract east of Big Rockhouse Creek. In August, 1787, Galloway and Perkins sold to county officials an acre lot for a courthouse site. The construction of a courthouse and jail began immediately. In 1825, the second courthouse, a brick structure, was completed. This building, remodeled in 1881, was destroyed by fire on October 2, 1906. A new courthouse was constructed the following year and has been added to since.

In 1796 the General Assembly established a town to be known as Wentworth at the site of the county seat which was known as Rockingham Courthouse. The county's first post office was established there on November 9, 1794 with Peter Watson as the first of Wentworth's thirty postmasters.

The town flourished around the courthouse and jail. Various stores and taverns were constructed to accommodate the court-week crowds. Wentworth's noted merchants included Robert Martin, Jr.; Thomas Ratliffe, John G. Mitchell; David L. Withers; Robert G. Mitchell, John J. McCargo and J. Garfield Wilson. The two major hostelryes were the Wright Tavern (later the Reid Hotel) and the Ellington Hotel located on Main Street. The Wright Tavern was built about 1816 and remained in continuous operation for well over one hundred years. It is now restored. The Ellington Hotel, built in the mid 1800's, was a keen competitor under various owners until its destruction by fire in 1904.

Religion and education developed in Wentworth prior to the War Between the States. On October 1, 1836 the Wentworth Methodist Church was formally organized just west of the courthouse. The present church sanctuary was built in 1859. In November, 1859, the Wentworth Presbyterian Church was organized and the church building was erected about 1860. Each church had a gallery for slaves. The first recorded school in Wentworth was opened in 1844 and was the forerunner of several private and public schools. By 1846 a Masonic Order was organized in Wentworth which continued to be active through the first two decades of the 20th century.

Wentworth's legal and medical practice was quite impressive. Doctors John R. Raine, James Hardy Ellington, and Samuel Buck Ellington served the area devotedly. Wentworth attorneys included Col. A. J. Boyd, Congressman James W. Reid, Governor David S. Reid, Governor Alfred M. Scales (whose Wentworth home still stands today), State Senator Reuben D. Reid, W. N. Mebane and Hugh R. Scott.

Little remains of the venerable old town but its few and determined residents hope that Wentworth will revive once more.

Michael Perdue



Courthouse Square, Wentworth ca. 1905.

Wentworth



East side of Courthouse (under construction, 1907). Rider shown on right is Queen Lemons Saunders. Buildings in background (l. to r.) are: Scott-Reid law office, McMichael law office, the town well, the 1858 jail and the old Ratliffe store building.



Wentworth Methodist Episcopal Church, ca. 1900.
Built in 1859.



Post Civil War Home of Gov. A. M. Scales. Later residence of State Senators Reuben Reid and John F. Reynolds, on East Main Street.

Wentworth



At the town well in Wentworth ca. 1918. Left to right, John Irving, Lucile Reid, Robert Irving.



Emma Mitchell in front of her father's (R. G. Mitchell) general merchandise store. About 1925.



Town lots in Wentworth as surveyed in 1799 and 1835. Researched by Robert W. Carter, Jr. in 1984. Drawn by Ann O. Rich, April, 1985.

Eden-Leaksville



Washington Street, looking East. Colonial Theatre right foreground.

John Leak, Revolutionary patriot and county justice, founded the town of Leaksville in 1795. The site was well-chosen for the trading town which Leak believed would thrive as the back country filled with settlers. A few merchants and investors were attracted to the village of four streets and forty-two lots.

In 1813 James Barnett bought a large section of the Byrd-Farley estate which joined the town on its northeast line. He located a grist mill a mile north of Leaksville on the Smith River. In 1836 John M. Morehead became sole owner of the Barnett development and added a cotton mill known as "Leaksville Factory".

On the whole, Leaksville grew slowly based on an agrarian economy largely dependent on tobacco — both warehouse sales and manufacture. The town was incorporated in 1874. In 1883 a railroad connected Leaksville with the outside world. The population of 688 people in 1900 was made up of merchants, skilled craftsmen, doctors, ministers, teachers, a publisher, a banker and employees of a buggy factory, of a construction company and of several tobacco factories.

Leaksville's black citizens have played a considerable role in post-Civil War life. Often they have owned their homes and businesses, organized and maintained their churches and lodges.

The Twentieth Century brought new mill owners who built a bedspread and rug mill in Leaksville. Nearby a mill village of more than 200 new homes, a general store and a YMCA was constructed. With an increased tax base and citizen authorization, the town matured with better schools, paved streets, utilities and extended city boundaries. More residents became homeowners when the mill offered the employee housing for sale to the occupants.

A change in mill owners made little difference to the community in 1953. Growth in commerce and housing brought new people to the town who were employed in new businesses and small industries in the area.

In 1967 Leaksville was ready for the next step.

Marjorie Walker



Jones Motor Company on the Boulevard, March, 1924.

Eden-Leaksville



House on Moir Street, Leaksville.



Church of the Epiphany established in 1844.



Twin City Grocery Company,
Factory Street (Boone Road)



Leaksville Hospital, established
by Doctors Carl Tyner and Kenan
Casteen was Rockingham County's first.

Eden-Spray



Mill workers in Spray early 1900's.



Professor O. A. Kercheis and Miss Grottefant with music students at Spray Graded School.



When James Barnett bought Tract #12 of the Byrd-Farley estate in 1813, he chose the Island Ford where the Petersburg to Salem Road crossed Smith River as the site for his grist mill. By building a dam on the river, Barnett forced water into a 4200 foot canal which brought power to the mill. In a family division of property, the grist mill fell to William Barnett, Jr. and became the nucleus for a saw mill, an oil mill, a carding machine, a cotton gin and a general store. In 1836 John M. Morehead, later our governor, became sole owner of the total operation and eventually of the whole tract.

Morehead, in 1839, erected a cotton mill west of the grist mill and provided housing for the operatives. The next generation of ownership was under the management of Major J. Turner Morehead. He and some of the other family owners lived adjacent to the mill and participated in every phase of community life there and in Leaksville while adding a woolen mill to the mill complex.

In 1889 the postal service assigned a post office to the growing mill village and the name "Spray" was chosen. About this time Major Morehead began some experiments which led to the production and identification of acetylene gas in 1892 and this resulted in the formation of Union Carbide Corporation later.

At this period a reorganization of the local mills created Spray Water Power and Land Company. This company was controlled by the third generation of Moreheads with B. Frank Mebane, son-in-law of the Major, as president. Eight more textile mills were built in quick succession. Homes were rushed to completion to keep up with the increase of employees.

Such quick expansion led to fiscal problems. By 1911 Marshall Field and Company, a creditor, had taken over six of the most recently built mills; Spray Cotton Mill became the property of Dr. Karl von Ruck; Leaksville Cotton, Leaksville Woolen and Morehead mills were retained by the Morehead family.

For the next forty years Marshall Field was a model mill owner and a good corporate neighbor for the extended community. Additions and new mills were built. The Spray Civic Association, which had been organized as a non-capital corporation, provided many of the services needed in the mill community.

In 1941 Marshall Field offered to the occupant for purchase the mill house in which he lived. Generous terms were arranged so the employees could become home owners. Some years later, the textile interests of Field were separated from the parent company and set up as Fieldcrest Mills, Incorporated. In 1953 Amoskeag, a Boston Investment firm became the new owner of the local mills and holds them to the present.

In 1951 Spray was incorporated and elected its own city government. Spray had reached maturity and was ready for the next step.

Marjorie Walker

Boulevard Street scene in the 1920's.

Eden-Spray



Mill houses in Spray, early 1900's.



Street scene looking toward what is now Spray Circle. Smith River in background. Photo made ca. 1906.

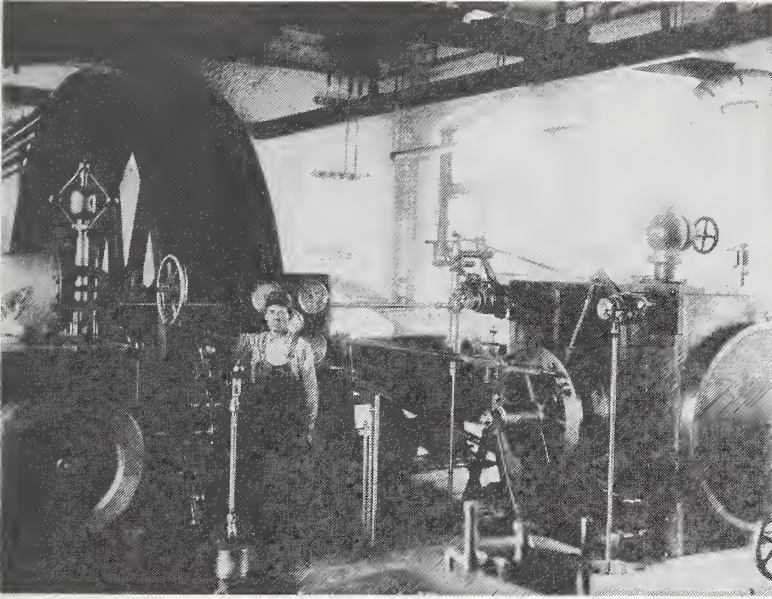


Boulevard Street Scene, early 1900's.



Mrs. A. S. Hopper's dress making shop on Hopper Lane, Spray.

Eden-Draper



W. A. Johnson, Sr., starts up German-American (Blanket) Mill, Draper, at 3:20 P.M., June 22, 1906.

In 1905 B. Frank Mebane decided to build a blanket mill about five miles east of Leaksville-Spray at a railroad flagstop called Sharp. Because access to the mill site was difficult, most of the heavy equipment was brought in parts on railroad handcars. A stone dam was constructed nearby to create a spring-fed pond for auxiliary electric power. On Thursday, June 22, 1906 the machinery for the German-American Mill was started.

The model village, apparently named for its planner, Arthur Draper, grew rapidly as people moved in to work in the mill. Businesses opened, churches were established and fraternal orders were organized.

The mill was sold in 1911 to the Thread Mills Company, a subsidiary of Marshall Field, and in 1915 construction was begun on a sheeting mill nearby.

Electric lights were installed in company houses in 1917.

In 1918 Henry W. Owen organized the Draper YMCA which quickly assumed a vital place in community life.

The Bank of Draper was organized in 1920 by local men.

On July 1, 1949, Draper became an incorporated town and by the 1960's it, too, was ready for a change.

Peggy Osborne

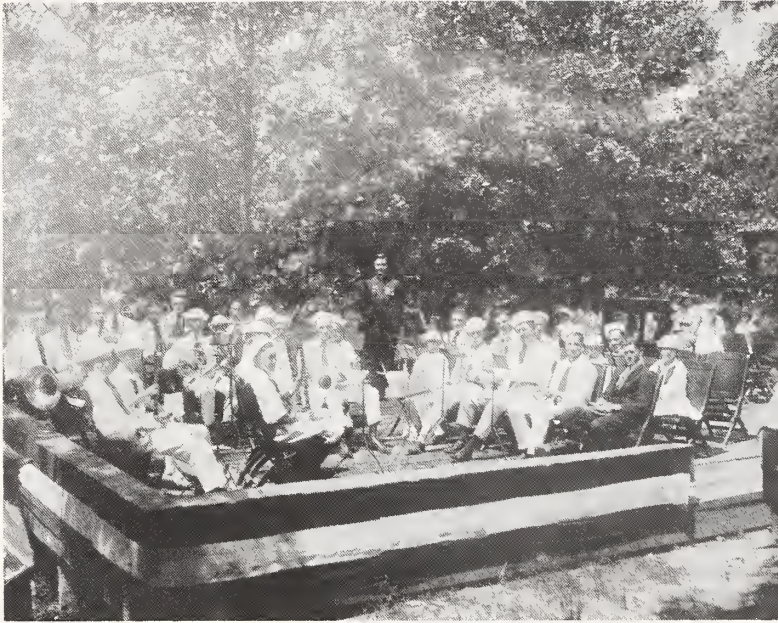


Draper Motor Company and Palace Theatre, Main Street, mid-twenties.



"The Front" in Draper, 1938.

Eden



Prof. Manker and the community band at the Spray Park, July 4, 1920.

In the years after World War II, several new industries came to the most urban area of Leaksville Township. The sections along Meadow Road and Stadium Drive between Spray and Draper gained in population, thus this central area was also in need of the services that the towns already had.

The relocation of Highway 14, the placement of Morehead High School and Morehead Memorial Hospital in the Central Area, and the opening of Kings Highway hastened the development of the surrounding towns.

The citizens realized that consolidation of the three towns and the central area should be the next step in the continued growth of the area. On September 12, 1967 the voters favored consolidation and chose the name "Eden" for this new city of approximately 10 square miles.

Immediate problems were additional water and sewage treatment. With those problems solved, Miller Brewing Company announced in 1976 they had chosen Eden as the home of their new mid-Atlantic brewery. Three large shopping centers are now competing with the traditional business sections of the older towns. Eden looks forward to the future.

Marjorie Walker



Aerial view of Draper, early 1920's.



The Hopper Hotel, Bridge Street, facing west on Washington Street, Leaksville.

Madison



1906 street scene in Madison showing former Mayor Woodburn crossing street.



Business Block in Madison ca. 1900's.

The North Carolina Legislature acted to establish the town of Madison at the junction of the Dan and Mayo rivers in 1815. Three years later, in the summer of 1818, Randal Duke Scales sold lots at auction in the new town which he had surveyed on his plantation. The river town appeared a suitable site for capturing the trade of the upper Piedmont. One brick store, an academy and a few houses constituted the town through its first decade. The growth of the Roanoke Navigation Company contributed to the gradual growth of Madison. The first church congregations, Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist, came into being between 1845 and 1850 and frame sanctuaries were built.

A toll bridge was built across the Dan at Madison about 1830 and it was replaced several times in the nineteenth century when floods swept down the river. The fragile base of river trade and tobacco created a rich merchant class but the Civil War brought economic ruin. By 1870 the manufacture of plug tobacco was begun by William Reynolds in the former Academy building. Although that company soon went into bankruptcy other efforts succeeded. Between 1859 and 1889 there were forty-four factories in Madison. John M. Gallaway, a local planter, became the largest grower of flue-cured tobacco in the world.

In 1876 the town was again incorporated having lost that status, gained in 1851, during the Civil War. In 1888 the first railroad, a spur of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley, came to town and three years later the Roanoke and Southern Railroad connecting Roanoke and the booming tobacco town of Winston was completed through Madison. Until the outbreak of World War I the sale and storage of tobacco and its plug manufacture made Madison one of the tobacco towns of North Carolina. It also retained its function as the merchant town for western Rockingham and eastern Stokes County and the downtown business district was a collection of brick stores, several hotels, a newspaper and the Bank of Madison, founded in 1899.

Madison's economy did not show much diversity until 1914 when the Penn Brothers Suspender Company was organized. Reorganized in 1920 as the Gem-Dandy Garter Company it remains a major local employer. Following the Second World War Madison began to change from a tobacco to a textile town. The Madison Throwing Company, begun in 1947, was later to become a division of Burlington Industries. From this same management came Macfield Texturing Company. Together they make Rockingham County the chief producer of textured yarn in America. Today there is a diversified industrial base in the Madison area and tobacco, in the form of several leaf sales warehouses, is only a part of that base. Madison does remain a major mercantile town for the upper Dan River basin, a purpose which first brought it into being.

Charles D. Rodenbough

Madison



Rural Retreat (now Boxwoods) the plantation home of Randal Duke Scales built in the early 1800's.



Murphey Street looking west to Market Street intersection in the early 1900's.



Scene from old Ellington Drug Store ca. 1930's. Left to right: Edgar Ellington, Willard Andrews, Dick Ellington, and a Fallin youth.

Madison



Ben Apple and John D. Wall ca. 1920's.



Ford Automobile Agency in Madison owned by Dr. John Roach. Photo made in the 1920's or 1930's.



Old tobacco factory being torn down, ca. 1950. Located on Franklin Street across from First Baptist Church.



Webster Warehouse fire ca. 1950, in downtown Madison.

Reidsville



Southwest corner of Scales and Gilmer Streets in Reidsville, 1910's. Left to right are the Citizen's Bank, Reidsville Hardware Co., and the Grotto Theater.



A Reidsville home in 1883.

Reidsville, a town of approximately 14,000 inhabitants located in the southeastern part of Rockingham County, derived its name from the family of Reuben Reid. Reid, who was then living in the Hogan's Creek area, purchased a farm on the ridge between Wolf Island and Little Troublesome creeks and in May, 1814 moved there with his wife, Elizabeth Settle Reid, and their young son, David Settle Reid.

Soon Reid opened a store across the road from his small log residence and also began operating an ordinary, a public inn kept in a private home. In 1829 a post office, called Reidsville, was established at this location and David Settle Reid, then sixteen years old, was appointed postmaster. Reidsville still points with pride to David S. Reid's later accomplishments as U. S. Congressman, Senator, and Governor of North Carolina, the state's first Democratic governor.

Though the Reid establishment became a stop on the stage line, established in the early 1830's between Danville and Salisbury, little growth took place there until after the Civil War. Just prior to the War there were only a few families and a single store.

This changed with the completion of the Piedmont Railroad in 1864. The railroad was part of the Confederate supply line, and Reidsville became the principal station between Danville and Greensboro. As early as 1863, Joseph Holderby had surveyed lots and began selling plots of land along what is now Market Street "at Reidsville."

An official of the Piedmont Railroad, Major Mortimer Oaks, saw the possibilities for development in the area and began pursuing them aggressively. Shortly after the war he purchased land and announced the intention of building a town on it. He opened a hotel and a second store.

Reidsville's location in the heart of a tobacco-growing area and its new railroad facilities made an ideal combination for the development of a New South tobacco town.

Major Oaks recognized these opportunities and in January, 1872 opened Reidsville's first tobacco auction warehouse. By 1885 there were several warehouses in the town and 15 tobacco factories. Most of the factories were producing plug and twist, but 2 of them were making smoking tobacco and cigarettes.

By 1900 a number of these smaller tobacco factories had closed or had been absorbed by the larger ones. Then American Tobacco Company came to Reidsville, and the F. R. Penn Tobacco Company, one of the largest firms in Reidsville, joined the American Tobacco Company Trust. Before long, the remaining firms in Reidsville, including those of A. H. Motley, Robert Harris & Bros., and R. P. Richardson, had either gone out of business or been sold to other non-local firms. The American Tobacco Company remains the backbone of Reidsville's economy and its largest employer.

Following the development of the tobacco industry, textile manufacturing came to Reidsville. In March 1889 construction of the Reidsville Cotton Mill began, with Colonel Andrew J. Boyd as president. This later became Edna Mills and is now part of Cone Mills. In recent years Reidsville's manufacturing has been further diversified by the production of synthetic textile products, plastics, electronics, containers, and other products.

With the high level of commerce and industry came the need for banks. The first, the Bank of Reidsville, opened in 1882 with Colonel A. J. Boyd as president. In 1885 the Citizens Bank opened with H. R. Scott as president, and continued in business until the early 1930's. Through various changes the Bank of Reidsville became part of Wachovia, which now has two offices in town. The First National Bank was formed in 1917.

Naturally such industrial growth as Reidsville experienced 1870-1900 called for development in many other areas. The town was chartered in 1873, and Major Oaks became its first mayor. A number of churches were organized. The First Baptist Church, organized in 1871, was the oldest. Others were the Methodist, organized in 1872; the Presbyterian, organized in 1875; the Episcopal, organized in 1883. Negro churches in the late 1800's included Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, and Disciples. Of course all these groups have grown and others, mostly Protestant, have been added. A Catholic church, the Holy Infant, was dedicated in 1962.

Most of Reidsville's nineteenth-century schools were private, but a public school system began operation in 1887. The Reidsville system now includes a senior high school, a junior high school, a middle school, and five elementary schools.

Newspapers were established early, and by the 1880's there were two, the *Reidsville Times* and the *Weekly Review*. The *Webster's Weekly* was published from the 1880's into the 1910's. The *Reidsville Review*, is now the town's only newspaper. It is published daily, Monday through Friday.

A library was begun in 1909 by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The library occupied its present quarters in 1973 and continues to grow and expand its services.

The town's only hospital, Annie Penn Memorial Hospital, was established in 1930. It has recently been renovated and greatly enlarged, with much new equipment installed. It is a facility of which the community can justly be proud.

Through the years Reidsville citizens have enjoyed, at various times, many cultural and recreational amenities: an opera house, a cornet band, an art gallery (primarily a photographic studio), semi-pro baseball, a race track, a Little Theater group, a YMCA. The town does not have a movie theater, but the old Rockingham Theater has been purchased by the Rockingham County Arts Council, which plans to use it for many cultural events. Another useful facility in Reidsville now is the Civic Center. This former home of the Charles A. Penn family was donated to the city and provides an increasingly popular setting for social and business meetings. It also houses a tobacco museum.

Reidsville is still growing, though not as fast as in its boom period. In the late 1960's the Pennrose Mall was opened and introduced the shopping center concept in Reidsville.

The City Government, the Chamber of Commerce, the Merchants Association, and the many civic clubs are firmly committed to the objectives of providing economic opportunities for all citizens and of improving the quality of life for each one, always promoting the friendliness and cooperation that most new-comers find characteristic of the town.

Lucy M. Rankin

Reidsville



Looking north over Reidsville from the water tower near the center of town. Photo made ca. 1910.



Scales Street, looking South ca. 1908.



Tobacco Wagons which have been unloaded and parked on Gilmer Street (looking West) in Reidsville ca. 1905. The tower of the First Presbyterian Church is in the background.



Waiting for the auction leaf tobacco sales to begin at the Leader Warehouse, Reidsville about 1907.

Reidsville



First Baptist Church in Reidsville before 1902.



The American Tobacco Company in Reidsville. Photo made in 1917.



J. D. McCollum's Store, left to right: J. D. McCollum, Willie McCollum, Luther McCollum

Reidsville



Furniture store and undertaking establishment on Scales Street. Shown in doorway, l. to r., Fletcher Waynick, Mattie Waynick Jacobs and J. "Tim" Smith, owner and proprietor.



Workers in the Reidsville Post Office ca. 1908.



Dodge automobile agency on Morehead Street, Reidsville, 1922.

Reidsville



Photo made in the 1920's during prohibition. The truck is loaded with a beer substitute.



Charles A. Penn and Irvin S. Cobb at Penn's home in Reidsville late 1920's. Cobb, a noted actor and humorist, is pictured left.



Parade scene in Reidsville, 1902, honoring Governor Charles B. Aycock. Corner of Scales and Gilmer Streets.

Stoneville



Farmer's Warehouse, Stoneville, owned by Thomas Jackson Glenn, built in early 1900's.

The area that became Stoneville began as a small community called Mayo. On May 8, 1821, Nathaniel Scales, Jr. was appointed the first postmaster of Mayo. On December 11, 1866 the post office was closed but it was reopened in 1869 as Stone's Store (Stoneville).

In 1857 Francis J. Stone and Pinkney Stone built a store at the crossroads which intersects Stoneville. They prospered and a small town grew up around the store. Stoneville became a trading center for the surrounding rural communities of Ayersville, Price, Grogansville, Matrimony, Providence and Shiloh.

Stoneville became an incorporated town in 1877. Francis Stone became the first mayor, a position which his son, Robert Lee Stone and grandson Robert B. Stone, later

held. Francis Stone served as postmaster from February 6, 1873 to March 21, 1889. He also served as a county commissioner, a trustee of the Stoneville Academy and helped secure the railroad through Stoneville in 1892. He was the minister at Matrimony Primitive Baptist Church which was established in 1776. The church, located several miles east of Stoneville, was the first known Baptist congregation in the county.

R. T. Stone, a cousin of Francis Stone, was instrumental in the development of Stoneville. He helped to organize the Bank of Stoneville, operated a tobacco factory and a wholesale grocery. His son Charlie is the last of the Stone family living in Stoneville.

Tobacco has been the mainstay of the growers as well as the area people who manufactured it to be peddled through the southern states. R. H. Lewis built the first tobacco sales warehouse at Stoneville in 1875. The Glenns and others later built and operated tobacco warehouses.

The earliest industries were farm related such as tobacco manufacturing and gristmilling. Merchants and blacksmiths supplied what couldn't be made or produced at home. Later industries were Stoneville Furniture Company, textiles and a farm equipment business.

The first church built in Stoneville was Methodist. Soon other denominations, both black and white, built churches.

Dodd School was the first known school. It was followed by the Stoneville Academy. In 1925 a new high school was built. The building was used as a grade school after another high school was built. The building was torn down in the 1960's.

Stoneville has two banks, a library, post office, town hall, fire and police department. It has restaurants, grocery stores, a laundromat and service stations.

The charm of Stoneville is its friendly people. Many families have lived here for generations. A news reporter once stated that Stoneville was a land of beauty and opportunity and that the people were "the salt of the earth."

Jamie Smith



R. S. Thomas Grocery Store in Stoneville, ca. 1920.

Stoneville



Union Warehouse in Stoneville ca. 1910's. Building still in use today as Joyce's Warehouse.



Parade in Stoneville in the early 1900's.



Union Fruit Stand and store in Stoneville.

Stoneville



Methodist Church in Stoneville ca. 1910.



R. L. Stone's Store in Stoneville in the 1930's.



Stoneville Public School, 1912.

Mayodan



Looking down Main Street in Mayodan, 1916. Large building is Ault Building.



W. N. Pool's General Store, Mayodan.

Mayodan's roots began as early as 1885 when industrialists from Winston and Salem realized that a rail outlet was needed to transport products from Winston to northern points. The solution was to build a 122 mile rail link to Roanoke, Virginia and there to connect the line to the tracks of the Norfolk and Western. Colonel Francis H. Fries and other industrialists were instrumental in the construction of the Roanoke and Southern Railway at the cost of two million dollars. The line was later sold to the Norfolk and Western Railway.

While surveying for the railroad, it became evident that the rapids of the Mayo River would supply ample water power to operate a textile mill. The first building of Mayo Mills (later named Washington Mills) was completed in 1896 with Colonel Francis H. Fries as the first president of the company and William C. Ruffin as secretary and treasurer.

While the mill building was taking shape, a group of realtors organized the Piedmont Land and Manufacturing Company. Soon the company purchased 300 acres of land from Robert Lewis and named Francis B. Kemp to lay off the streets and lots for sale.

Many of the first settlers moved into the village of Mayodan by 1895. Coming south from Roanoke, John and Sarah Ault erected the first commercial building. The old Robert Lewis homeplace was purchased by the Mayo Mills Company and here Mrs. Eliza Higgins operated the boarding house and first Post Office.

With the beginning of commercial life in the new town, the establishment of a town government was necessary. A charter was received in February, 1899 and W. C. Ruffin, mill superintendent, served as the first mayor. The board of commissioners included L. W. Blackwell, C. G. Carter and F. B. Kemp. By the year 1900 over 900 people were living in the town.

One of the surveyors from Winston, Howard E. Rondthaler, organized and served as first pastor of the Mayodan Moravian Church. The cornerstone of this church was laid on July 28, 1896 and in the same year, November 29, the congregation was organized with 14 charter members. The church also served as the first school and library with Mrs. Lucy W. Weathersbee as the first teacher. In 1901, the first public school building was erected on the site where the present building stands.

The Bank of Mayodan, founded May 1, 1916, began operation in a building on Second Avenue. J. O. Ragsdale was the first president and Marsh P. Black was cashier.

Tultex, a Martinsville, Va. based textile company, bought Washington Mills in 1982 and continues to provide the greatest employment for people of Mayodan and the surrounding area. Burlington Industries and Macfield Texturing Company are additional industries that have located in the vicinity.

Mayo Mills, for eleven years, operated a second plant two miles north on the Mayo River at Avalon. This facility was destroyed by fire June 15, 1911 and the remaining town structures were moved by mule teams to Mayodan and the village of Avalon gradually disappeared.

Linda Vernon
Emagene Cooke
Carolyn Poole

Mayodan



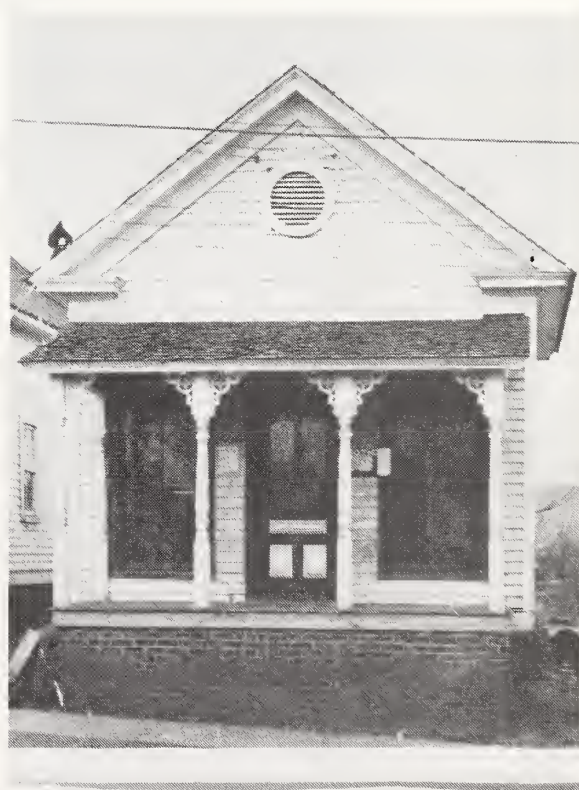
Lauten's Store on corner of Main St. and Second Ave. in Mayodan.



M. C. Money and his early Coca-Cola delivery wagon in Mayodan.



Two early business buildings on Main Street belonging to Luther W. Martin and his son, Roy Martin.



Mayor's Office, Mayodan.

Mayodan



R. V. Ross' Store in Mayodan. Store later operated by C. P. Baughn.

Washington Street (Cotton Row) in Mayodan. Photo taken in the 1930's, shows street being paved.

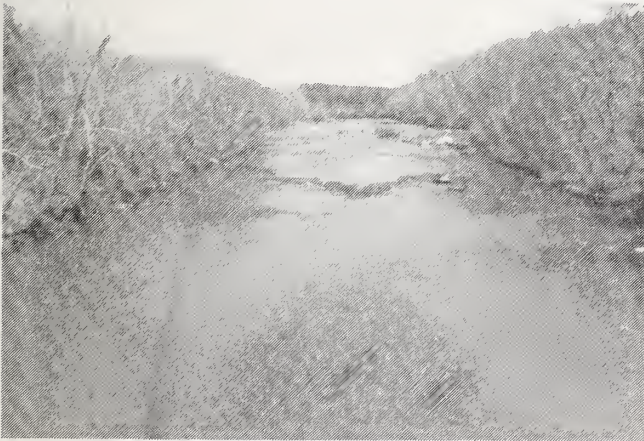


Mayodan Baseball Team.

County Scenes



Falls Creek "Falls," near Mayo River in northwestern Rockingham County.



Indian fish trap on Mayo River at Anglin's Mill Bridge.



On Dan River

County Scenes



Will F. Carter of Sandy Cross area in his tobacco field about 1927.



Neighborhood woodchopping on The Flat Rock Road south of Reidsville, in the early 1900's.



Peter E. Wilson's tobacco barn ca. 1915. Shown are left to right: Mr. Crutchfield, Peter E. Wilson and T. Jeff Penn.

County Scenes



Charles A. Penn's "Pennrington Farm" north of Reidsville, 1926.

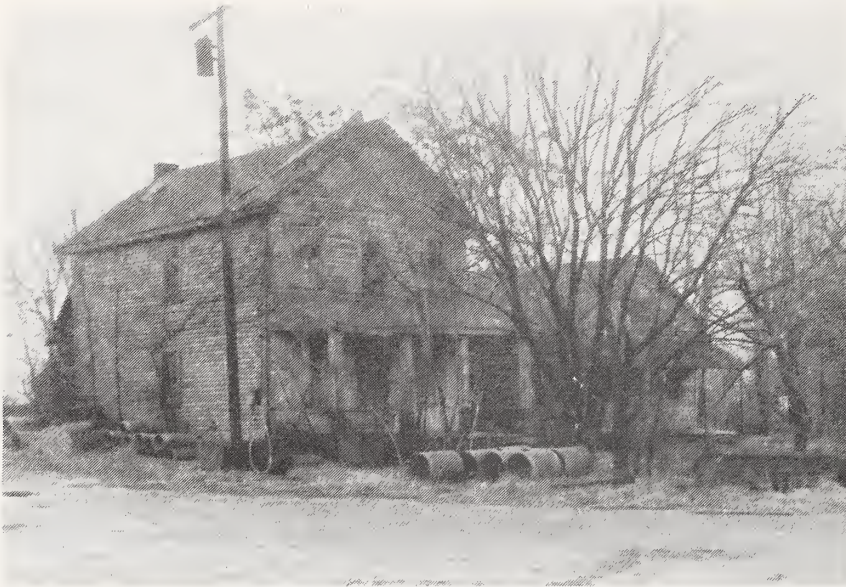


Cutting wheat with a binder on the Flat Rock Road in the early 1900's.



H. P. Brown, well-known farmer in northwestern Rockingham County. This type sled was unusual in Rockingham but typical of mountain areas.

County Scenes



Old Ruffin Hotel and Barroom.



Ruffin School built in 1923 and burned in 1939.



Bridge over the Southern Railway at Forshee in the 1920's. In the background are a general store and the Stalling's homeplace.



Child with sheep — Mayfield community ca. 1908.

County Scenes



Students at Matrimony School in 1912.



Grassy Springs School students in the early 1900's.

County Scenes



Rockingham County Log Cabin with wooden chimney. Photo probably made ca. 1900.



The Terry Family Home east of Reidsville.



Members of the Irving, Snead, and Roberts families at the home of William W. Irving on Buffalo Island Creek ca. 1915-17.



Grandstand at the old Reidsville Fair Grounds in the 1940's. Site now occupied by Pennrose Mall.

County Scenes



“Dinner on the ground” Sunday School picnic at El Bethel Church in the early 1900’s.



Elder B. B. McKinney (Primitive Baptist), his brothers and sisters and their spouses in the 1920’s. They lived in southeastern Rockingham and Caswell counties.

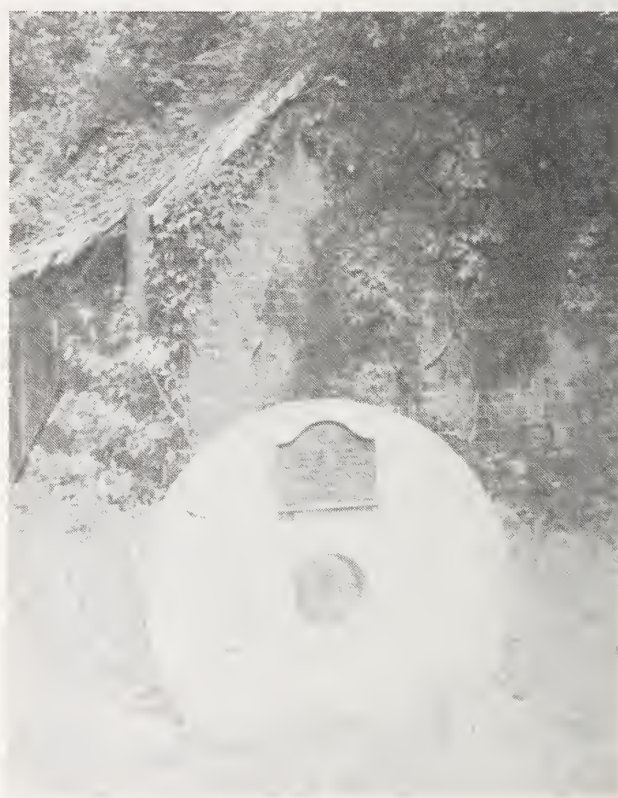
County Scenes



Dan Valley School "Farmers Union Meeting" ca. 1915.



"Chinqua Penn", the home of Mr. & Mrs. T. Jefferson Penn, near Reidsville, constructed 1923. Plantation house and grounds are open to the public. Photo made in 1945.



Brick warming house at Ironworks Mill with DAR Marker on a millstone. Photo made ca. 1940.

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